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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 43rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PETRESKI (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 94: MACROECONOMIC POLICY QUESTIONS (continued)

(a) FINANCING OF DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(b) LONG-TERM TRENDS IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(c) EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 95: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (continued)

(a) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(c) UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT II) (continued)

(e) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THE 1990s (continued)

(i) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 96: ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(a) IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

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/...

CONTENTS (continued)

(b) DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 97: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(a) TRIENNIAL POLICY REVIEW OF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM (continued)

(b) ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 102: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 95: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (continued)

(h) BUSINESS AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

The meeting was called to order at 3.45 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 94: MACROECONOMIC POLICY QUESTIONS (continued) (A/C.2/50/L.7, L.15, L.74 and L.75; A/50/397 and 429)

(a) FINANCING OF DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolution on sources for the financing of development (A/C.2/50/L.15 and L.74)

1. Mr. STADTHAGEN (Nicaragua), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.74, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.15. He recommended its adoption by consensus.

2. Mr. CABACTULAN (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, confirmed that a consensus had indeed been reached on the text of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.74. At the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, however, the day would come when a decision would have to be taken on the convening of an international conference on the financing of development; it could not be postponed indefinitely. The Secretariat could assist in reaching that decision by providing the Committee with comprehensive and meaningful studies on development financing, in the meantime.

3. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.74 was adopted.

4. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.15 was withdrawn.

5. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of the potential sources of financing for development contained in document A/50/397.

6. It was so decided.

(b) LONG-TERM TRENDS IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/50/429)

7. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the overall socio-economic perspective of the world economy to the year 2000 contained in document A/50/429.

8. It was so decided.

(c) EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/C.2/50/L.7 and L.75)

9. Mr. STADTHAGEN (Nicaragua), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.75, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.7.

10. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.75 was adopted.

11. Ms. LEBL (United States of America) said that her delegation wished to register its reservations on preambular paragraphs 15 and 17 and paragraphs 2 and 13 of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.75. She reaffirmed that the United States understood the term "sustained economic growth" as referring to "growth in the context of sustainable development", consistent with paragraph 6 of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, which read as follows: "We are convinced that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development, which is the framework for our efforts to achieve a higher quality of life for all people. Equitable social development that recognizes empowering the poor to utilize environmental resources sustainably is a necessary foundation for sustainable development. We also recognize that broad-based and sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development is necessary to sustain social development and social justice."

12. The United States had implemented and would continue to implement its Uruguay Round obligations, and stressed that it was of critical importance for other members of the World Trade Organization to do so as well. However, it understood the references in paragraph 16 to "full implementation" of those obligations regarding the least developed and net food-importing developing countries as calling for nothing more than the establishment of the "appropriate mechanisms" referred to in the Marrakech Ministerial Decision on measures concerning the possible negative effects of the reform programme on the least developed and net food-importing developing countries.

13. Mr. CABACTULAN (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the text of the draft resolution built on existing momentum and also introduced new concepts. In reply to the United States delegation, he pointed out that there was already broad acceptance of the meaning of the term "sustained economic growth and development" among the international community.

14. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.7 was withdrawn.

AGENDA ITEM 95: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (continued) (A/C.2/50/L.17, L.31, L.39, L.40, L.61, L.72, L.73, L.76, L.77 and L.80; A/50/411, 486, 487 and 746)

Draft resolutions on the second industrial decade for Africa (A/C.2/L.40 and L.76)

15. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.76, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.40.

16. Ms. WILLIAMS-MANIGAULT (United States of America), said that her delegation had a reservation on preambular paragraph 5, and reaffirmed that, for the United States, whenever the term "sustained economic growth" appeared in the resolution, it was its understanding that the term referred to "growth in the

context of sustainable development", consistent with paragraph 6 of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development.

17. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.76 was adopted.

18. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.40 was withdrawn.

19. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the Programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1993-2002) (A/50/487).

20. It was so decided.

(a) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolutions on international trade and development (A/C.2/50/L.17 and L.73)

21. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.73, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.17, and made several revisions to its text. In the seventh line of the first preambular paragraph, the words "and conferences" should be inserted after "agreements". In the thirteenth preambular paragraph, in the third line, "developing" should be inserted before "countries", and in the fourth line, "included" should be replaced by "agreed". In the fifteenth preambular paragraph, the phrase "of 4 May 1995" should be inserted after "decision 426" in the sixth line.

22. In the last line of paragraph 8, "the" should be deleted. The final clause of paragraph 20 should be amended to read "the conference should enable UNCTAD ...". In the fifth line of paragraph 29, "their" should be inserted before "external".

23. Ms. WILLIAMS-MANIGAULT (United States of America), said that her delegation wished to register its reservations on the first, sixth and seventh preambular paragraphs and paragraphs 4 and 10 of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.73, because of its understanding of the meaning of the term "sustained economic growth" in the light of paragraph 6 of the Copenhagen Declaration.

24. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.73, as orally revised, was adopted.

25. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.17 was withdrawn.

26. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take note of the note by the Secretary-General on negotiations on an international code of conduct on the transfer of technology, contained in document A/50/486.

27. It was so decided.

(c) UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT II) (continued)

28. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the regional commissions on the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) at the regional level (A/50/411).

29. It was so decided.

(e) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THE 1990S (continued)

Draft resolutions on implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (A/C.2/50/L.31 and L.72)

30. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the statement of programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.72 contained in document A/C.2/50/L.77.

31. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.72, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.31. In the first line of paragraph 7, the word "problem" should be made plural.

32. Mr. MOMEN (Bangladesh), referring to the statement of programme budget implications, said that the current language of paragraph 12 of the draft resolution had been agreed upon at an informal meeting of the Second Committee in the presence of a representative of the Budget Division. At that meeting, it had been explained that one of the sources within the regular budget for defraying the cost of participation of the representatives of the least developed countries at the annual Trade and Development Board meetings to review the implementation of the Programme of Action was any unspent balances of appropriations for travel costs of representatives to the General Assembly and other relevant organs. If his delegation's understanding was correct, paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.77 addressed that matter by seeking an exception to the rules governing the payment of travel and subsistence allowances.

33. Secondly, paragraph 6 argued that, since resources had been budgeted for programmed activities under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, it would not be possible to reallocate resources from other areas of the budget. While not wishing to open a debate on that argument, his delegation pointed out that, should there be any reallocation within the budget during the course of the biennium, it should also apply to the request made in paragraph 12 of the draft resolution.

34. Ms. WILLIAMS-MANIGAULT (United States of America) said that her delegation wished to register its reservations regarding paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, because of its understanding of the meaning of the term "sustained

economic growth and sustainable development" in the light of paragraph 6 of the Copenhagen Declaration.

35. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.72, as orally amended, was adopted.

36. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.31 was withdrawn.

37. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take note of the note of the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-Term Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action contained in document A/50/746.

38. It was so decided.

(i) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)

Draft resolutions on observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and proclamation of the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (A/C.2/50/L.39 and L.80)

39. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introducing draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.80, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.39, drew attention to two minor changes: in paragraph 10, the word "full" should be deleted; and, in paragraph 17, the word "seriously" should be replaced by "effectively".

40. Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Committee) said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

41. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.80, as orally revised, was adopted.

42. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.39 was withdrawn.

AGENDA ITEM 96: ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/50/74 and Add.1, A/50/182-E/1995/66 and Corr.1, A/50/227-E/1995/99 and A/50/516; A/C.2/50/L.23, L.55 and L.78)

43. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should take note, under the chapeau of the item, of the report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment (A/50/182-E/1995/66 and Corr.1).

44. It was so decided.

(a) IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(b) DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT (continued)

Draft resolutions on the special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 (A/C.2/50/L.23 and L.78)

45. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.78, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.23.

46. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the statement of programme budget implications contained in A/C.2/50/L.82.

47. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.78 was adopted.

48. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.23 was withdrawn.

49. Ms. IRISH (Canada) said that her delegation welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution. The special session would provide an excellent opportunity to review progress made in implementing the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. She noted with satisfaction that the Commission on Sustainable Development was requested to make available to the special session all relevant reports prepared under its aegis. One of the Commission's most significant achievements had been the creation of an intergovernmental panel on forests. The panel's final report should therefore be considered at the special session, along with any relevant recommendations by the Commission. In his report to the special session, the Secretary-General should identify the critical areas in which change was required before sustainable development could be achieved. The goal of the special session, to be held less than 1,000 days before the beginning of the new millennium, must be to make progress in those critical areas.

50. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take note, under sub-item (a), of the note by the Secretary-General on the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa (A/50/74 and Add.1).

51. It was so decided.

(b) DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT (continued)

52. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should take note, under sub-item (b), of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the overall implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, including Implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian Region (A/50/227-E/1995/99) and

of the report of the Secretary-General on observance of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought: Implementation of resolution 49/115 (A/50/516).

53. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 97: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/50/113 and Add.1 and A/50/421; A/C.2/50/L.79)

54. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should take note, under the chapeau of the item, of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "National execution of projects" (JIU/REP/94/9) (A/50/113 and Add.1).

55. It was so decided.

(a) TRIENNIAL POLICY REVIEW OF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM (continued)

Draft resolution on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/C.2/50/L.79)

56. Mr. STADTHAGEN (Nicaragua), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.79, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations. In paragraph 22, the word "focus" should be replaced by the word "part".

57. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.79, as orally revised, was adopted.

58. Ms. LEBL (United States of America) said that the delivery of United Nations development assistance would be greatly enhanced by the outcomes of the triennial policy review. Specifically, the country strategy note had been established as an important common framework for United Nations programming. The authority of resident coordinators to ensure that country programmes and other projects undertaken by the United Nations agencies were consistent with the country strategy note and with national sustainable development strategies had been enhanced. In addition, the decision to assess staff members' contribution to United Nations system coordination as part of the staff appraisal procedure was an important step towards making individuals, as well as agencies, accountable for enhancing cooperation within the Organization.

59. Her Government did not, however, agree that increased funding was the only or preferred way of enhancing the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of operational activities, as stated in paragraph 5 of the draft resolution. Instead, attention must be focused on reform of the United Nations system through viable, realistic and cost-effective measures. Her Government would not agree to any increase in funding, other than through the redistribution of existing resources or through the provision of resources from sources other than Governments. Finally, she wished to register her delegation's reservation on the third preambular paragraph and, with regard to the use of the term "sustained economic growth" therein, she referred to the definition she had given earlier.

(b) ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)

60. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take note, under sub-item (b), of the report of the Secretary-General on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (A/50/421).

61. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 102: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/C.2/50/L.9, L.58 and L.81)

Draft resolutions on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (A/C.2/50/L.9 and L.58)

62. Mr. STADTHAGEN (Nicaragua), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.58, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.9. Lines 1 to 6 of paragraph 5, up to and including the words "population and development", should be deleted and replaced by the following text: "Endorses Economic and Social Council decision 1995/320 of 12 December 1995, by which it enlarged the membership of the Commission on Population and Development from 27 to 47 members, elected by the Economic and Social Council from among the Members of the United Nations and members of its specialized agencies, in time to take part in the twenty-ninth session of the Commission on Population and Development, and that the regional representation will be 12 for Africa, 11 for Asia, 5 for Eastern Europe, 9 for Latin America and the Caribbean and 10 for Western Europe and other States, bearing in mind that Government representatives which are to serve on the Commission should have relevant background in population and development". Paragraph 7 of the draft resolution should be deleted.

63. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the statement of programme budget implications contained in A/C.2/50/L.81.

64. Ms. WILLIAMS-MANIGAULT (United States of America) said that she wished to express her delegation's reservation on paragraph 15 and, with regard to the use of the term "sustained economic growth", she referred to the definition she had given earlier.

65. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.58, as orally revised, was adopted.

66. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.9 was withdrawn.

The meeting was suspended at 4.50 p.m. and resumed at 5.50 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 95: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (continued)

(h) BUSINESS AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolution on business and development (A/C.2/50/L.41/Rev.1)

67. Mr. DUGAN (United States of America) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.41/Rev.1, submitted on the basis of informal consultations. He proposed a number of corrections to the revised draft resolution. In the third line of the sixth preambular paragraph, the words "developing countries and" should be deleted. In the second line of paragraph 1, after the words "and medium-sized enterprises" the words "and industries" should be inserted. In the third line of paragraph 4, after the word "issues,", the remainder of the paragraph should be deleted and replaced by "the role of public administration in promoting partnership for development, public and private;". In the second line of paragraph 6, the words "determine a timetable" should be deleted and replaced by "consider the appropriate time-frame and procedure".

68. Mr. MONGBE (Benin), referring to the correction proposed by the sponsors to paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, said that the phrase "public and private", added at the end of the paragraph, was confusing, at least in the French version. He suggested that the English phrase should be expanded to read "involving the public and private sectors", which would be more meaningful.

69. Mr. DUGAN (United States of America) explained that several delegations had been confused about the meaning of the term "partnership" but had accepted inclusion of the phrase "public and private" as offering some clarification. The proposed revision had been drafted in that manner in the interests of concision. However, he was willing to consider a further revision, if necessary, in informal consultations.

70. Mr. YAMPOLSKY (Ukraine) said that his delegation wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

71. Mr. OJIMBA (Nigeria) said that he was in favour of following the suggestion made by the United States delegation that the issue be reconsidered during informal consultations.

72. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco) suggested that the problem was one of translation and should be resolved on that basis.

73. Mr. MONGBE (Benin) said that the problem was one of substance and not merely a matter of translation. At stake was the whole question of development philosophy. Furthermore, he took issue with the Moroccan delegation's statement. Texts in other languages were not simply to be brought in line with the English text. All the official languages of the United Nations should be treated on an equal footing. He recalled that a resolution on multilingualism had already been adopted by the Organization.

74. Mr. BELHIMEUR (Algeria) suggested that the terms used in paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 49/136 could be repeated.

75. Mr. DUGAN (United States of America) said that the solution proposed by Algeria had already been considered during informal consultations but had not been retained, since it did not focus sufficiently on the resumed meeting on business and development. Paragraph 4 had already been amended several times. Based on further consultations, a new wording had been agreed upon which he read to the Committee. The comma at the end of line 2 should be deleted and the end of the paragraph should read: "The issues contained in its agenda, including the role of public administration in promoting partnership for development;".

76. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.41/Rev.1, as orally amended, was adopted.

77. Mr. YUAN Shaofu (China) said that his country attached great importance to the issue of corrupt practices, including illicit payments. It believed that a sound code of conduct in international business transactions was essential for the promotion of economic and social development. However, the problem of illicit payments was only one of a series of important issues to be covered by such a code. The issue was complex and required careful consideration. Given the differences in the various national legal systems, the Economic and Social Council had been unable to reach consensus on the issue. Furthermore, there was a lack of relevant information to support the preparation for the discussions. His delegation therefore had serious reservations on the resolution.

The meeting rose at 6.35 p.m.